

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~[[of]]~~ for fabricating contact strips for electrical device connectors comprising segmenting a secondary strip of contacts fabricated from a metal ribbon in which openings are formed with an original pitch to form a discontinuous central strip of blades whose longitudinal ends are attached to two continuous edge strips of said ribbon and each of said blades is twisted about its longitudinal axis to pivot relative to the plane of said ribbon and bent so that each of its two faces has at least one projecting area to form a contact on one side of said plane, said twisting and bending producing a primary contact strip whose blades are spaced at substantially the same regular pitch as the original pitch of said openings, said method further including pleating said primary contact strip by forming pleats on each continuous edge strip to move said blades closer together, and a hardening heat treatment to impart hardness to said blades combined with some elasticity so that they function as springs, and which method begins with the following steps:

a) said ribbon is metal-plated on both sides to cover at least said central strip with a layer of a metal that is a better electrical conductor than the metal of said ribbon; ~~[[,]]~~

b) said openings are formed in said ribbon; ~~[[, and]]~~

c) each of said blades is twisted and bent; ~~[[,]]~~

~~and then includes the following successive operations:~~

d) said two continuous edge strips of said primary strip of contacts are pleated after said ribbon is metal plated; ~~[[,]]~~

e) said hardening heat treatment is applied to the contact strip ~~obtained~~ after said two continuous edges strips are pleated; ~~and the foregoing operations, to produce said secondary~~

~~contact strip, and~~

f) said secondary contact strip is segmented into a plurality of contact strips ready to be mounted on the connectors for which they are intended with a strip length as required for each connector.

2. (Original) The fabrication method claimed in claim 1, wherein said ribbon is metal-plated by galvanization.

3. (Original) The fabrication method claimed in claim 1, wherein all of the surface of said ribbon is covered during the metal-plating operation.

4. (Original) The fabrication method claimed in claim 1, wherein said ribbon is metal-plated before said openings are punched in the ribbon.

5. (Original) The fabrication method claimed in claim 1, wherein, during said pleating operation, said blades are moved closer together so as to be regularly spaced with a new regular pitch such that the ratio between the original pitch and the new pitch is from 1.3 to 2.

6. (Original) The fabrication method claimed in claim 5, wherein said pleats are formed in two continuous edge strips of the ribbon on the same side of the plane of the ribbon and each pleat has a height such that the ratio between the new regular pitch and said height is from 1.7 to 2.5.

7. (Original) The fabrication method claimed in claim 6, wherein each pleat is formed with a transverse cavity whose section in the longitudinal direction has straight portions and portions with a substantially constant radius of curvature and the bottom of said cavity has a curvature diameter such that the ratio between the height of a pleat and the diameter is from 2.4 to 3.2.

8-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The fabrication method claimed in claim ~~[[11]]~~ 1, wherein each said pleat is formed with a transverse cavity, said cavity having a section in a longitudinal direction of said strip which comprises straight portions and portions with a substantially constant radius of curvature and a bottom which has a diameter of curvature such that a ratio between said height and said diameter of curvature is between and including values of 2.4 and 3.2.

13. (New) A method for fabricating contact strips for an electrical device connector from a metal ribbon having a conductivity, the method comprising:

plating the metal ribbon with a plating material having a conductivity higher than the conductivity of the metal ribbon, wherein the plating material covers a central strip of the metal ribbon;

forming openings through a plane of the metal ribbon to define a plurality of discontinuous blades in central strip, wherein the blades are attached on opposite ends to a pair of continuous edge strips;

twisting and bending the blades with respect to the metal ribbon to form electrical

contacts oriented out of the plane;

pleating the continuous edge strips after the ribbon is metal plated with the plating material; and

applying heat treatment to the contact strip after the continuous edge strips are pleated.